

THE
Dolgelley Urban District
Council.

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year
1940



Hughes Brothers, Printers, Dolgellau.

TO THE DOLGELLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mrs. Rees and Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit my report upon the sanitary conditions of your district during the year 1940.

The Urban District of Dolgelley has an area of 1,127 acres. The resident population for the year 1940 was 2,536. The number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to the rate books was 693. The rateable value at the same date was £9,741, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £37 13s. 6d.

The inhabitants are for the most part engaged in the ordinary occupation of an agricultural market town. The surrounding country is mountainous. The town lies at the bottom of a deep valley, rising on the steep southern slope of the valley, having therefore an aspect to the North. Immediately to the South, Cader Idris rises to a height of nearly 3,000 ft. Through the main valley the river Wnion runs, and this is joined by a smaller stream called the Arran, which comes down from Cader Idris through the town with a rapid descent.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births	50	25	25
Legitimate	50	25	25
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still Births	2	1	1
Legitimate	1	1	0
Illegitimate	1	0	1

BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

Total	18.92
Still Birth rate	0.79

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	40	23	17

Deaths.

Death rate per 1,00 of the estimated resident population 15.77.

There were no deaths in the area during the past year from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth, including sepsis and other causes.

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	0
Maternal mortality per 1,000 live births	0
Maternal mortality per 1,000 live and still births	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years per 1,000 live births)	0

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

1 M.O.H. (part time); 1 Sanitary Inspector (certificated).
Full time in conjunction with Dolgelley Rural District.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There has been no change in the arrangements for (a) general nursing; (b) nursing of cases of infectious diseases.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

I am pleased to state that the Joint Ambulance Committee, representing the Dolgelley Urban District Council, Dolgelley Rural District and Barmouth Urban District Council, have procured an Ambulance Van to serve the three areas, and is garaged at Dolgelley.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied by a private company. Samples were taken, and the results of the analysis generally were satisfactory, **except for the plumbo solvent nature of the water.**

Drainage and Sewerage.

The condition of the sewers during the past year has been good. During the greater part of the year an enormous volume of water from the surrounding mountains is turned into them, and they are thus effectively flushed.

I would again call the serious condition of the Local Authority to the objectionable method of disposing of the sewerage of the district by discharging it in a crude state to the river Wnion.

Rivers and Streams.

There was no pollution of rivers and streams during the past year in this area beyond that produced by a few careless inhabitants who throw small quantities of some kind of waste material or rubbish in them at times. There is no excuse for this as the district is systematically scavenged three times every week. There are no large industries in the district to produce any material pollution.

Closet Accommodation.

The great majority of the houses have separate water closets with proper flushing apparatus.

Water Closets	510
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Conservancy System	16
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The dry closets are on the outskirts of the town, and their contents are disposed of in the gardens.

Public Cleansing.

Scavenging is done by contract, and the house refuse is collected three times a week by a motor lorry during the morning.

I have repeatedly called the attention of this Authority to the need of a cover for the lorry when in use.

The receptacles used by some of the inhabitants for storing the refuse at night outside their dwellings are altogether unsatisfactory. The old boxes, pails, hampers, etc., at present seen in use are most objectionable. These receptacles should be made of galvanised iron with well fitting metallic covers to insure protection from the sun and air. A satisfactory solution of this problem will not be reached until the Local Authority provides and maintains standard ash-bins in place of the boxes, pails, etc., in common use.

The refuse is taken to a place about a mile outside the town along the Tallylyn Road, and tipped on the edge of the main road. There is still an attempt being made at controlled dumping, but the side of the dip sloping down to the river is still uncovered. The stench at times is objectionable, and during windy weather dust and the lighter articles are scattered around. The situation of the refuse heap on the roadside along which hosts of tourists and visitors travel is bad advertisement for the town.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1940.

Total number of formal notices issued	...	...	...	...	2
number complied with	...	...	...	...	2
Total number of informal notices issued	...	...	...	...	5
numbered complied with	...	...	...	...	5
Total number of New Houses completed					
(a) by Local Sanitary Authority	...	...	...	...	0
(b) by private enterprise	...	...	...	...	1
Number of plans—new houses, buildings	...	...	...	...	1
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Notices re Defects	...	...	...	...	0
Visits to Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Visits re Defects	...	...	...	...	0
Visits to Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Notices re Defects	...	...	...	...	0
Visits to Dairies	...	...	...	...	10
Number of Visits re Defects	...	...	...	...	0
Visits to Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	25
Number of Notices re Defects	...	...	...	...	0
Notices re Removal of Ashes	...	...	...	...	0
Notices re Removal of Manure	...	...	...	...	0
Notices re Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Visits to cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	2
Notices of Defective Water Fittings	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Pail Closets converted into W.C.	...	...	...	...	0
Number of New Water Closets erected	...	...	...	...	0

TOTAL number of Water Closets	...	...	...	...	510
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	0
Privies or Other Closets	...	...	...	...	16
number of Closets serving more than one house	...	...	...	...	14
Milk Samples taken for Ministry of Health—					
for County Council	...	...	...	...	4
for Local Sanitary Authority	...	...	...	...	0

Shops.

There was no action necessary during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

Smoke Abatement.

There is no nuisance from smoke in this district, and no action was needed.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action was necessary during the past year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

Camping Sites.

There are about three sites (in this area) used for camping purposes on a small scale. No licenses have been issued in respect of these sites.

Schools.

The co-operation of the School Medical Officer is always secured in dealing with any matters pertaining to the Schools and the scholars.

The Dolgelley Infants School was closed during the year owing to the prevailing of measles.

HOUSING.

The thirty new houses erected by the Council on the Ardd-fawr site have proved very satisfactory, and it is to be hoped that as soon as hostilities cease the Council will proceed to complete their housing scheme by erecting a further thirty houses, room for which is available on this site.

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	11
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	20
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	11

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	20
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	9

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	0
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. Housing Act, 1936 — Part IV. — Overcrowding:—

(a)	(i).	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
	(ii).	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
	(iii).	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(c)	(i).	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	(ii).	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overerowed after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Very little milk is produced within the area, and the bulk of it is imported from the immediate neighbourhood. The cowsheds and dairies are periodically inspected. There is need for structural improvement in some of the cowsheds. The dairies and cowsheds are kept clean, and are periodically lime-washed.

No action was taken by this Authority during the year in regard to tuberculous milk or cattle.

There are four producers of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk, who supply this area.

Meat.

All the slaughtering is now carried out at the abattoir situated in the town.

Bakehouses.

These were inspected, and found to be clean and periodically lime-washed.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

There was no need of this during the past year.

Shell-fish.

There are no shell-fish beds or layers in this area.

CANCER.

The death rate from cancer in this area during the past year, was 1.18 per 1000 of the population. The total number of deaths was 3.2 males and 1 female.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	0		0
Scarlet Fever	14		0
Diphtheria	0		0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	0	No Hospital Available.	
Puerperal Fever	0		
Puerperal Pyrexia	0		0
Pneumonia	1		0
Erysipelas	0		4

As a war-time measure Colomendy house, Corwen, has now been converted into an Isolation Hospital to meet the needs of the County, for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases.

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1940 are as follows:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5			2					
15	1		2		1			
25	1		1					
35				1				
45								
55	1		1					
65 and upwards .	1					1		
Totals	4		6		1	1		
Total Tuberculosis Death Rate								0.79
Total Phthisis Rate								0.79

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered to me during the past year by our Sanitary Inspector,—Mr. Tudor G. Evans.

I beg to remain, Your obedient servant,

Gwyndy, Dolgelley.

3rd July, 1941.

R. W. EDWARDS;

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.



